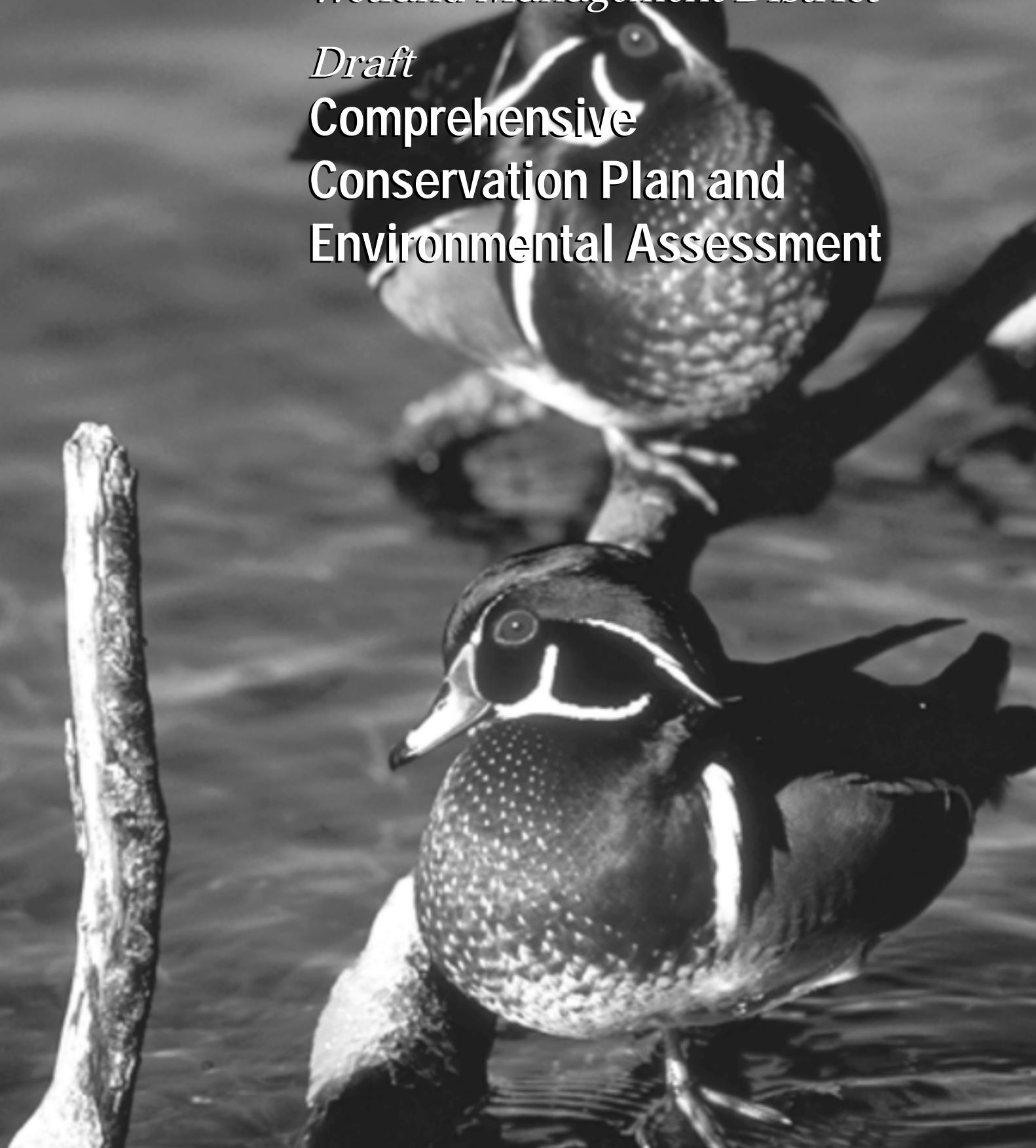


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Minnesota Valley**  
*National Wildlife Refuge and  
Wetland Management District*

*Draft*  
**Comprehensive  
Conservation Plan and  
Environmental Assessment**



Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long-term guidance for management decisions; set forth goals, objectives and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes; and, identify the Fish and Wildlife Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.

# **Minnesota Valley**

## *National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District*

### Comprehensive Conservation Plan Approval U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3

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## *Acknowledgments*

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is rooted in enthusiasm and concern for natural resources. Looking to the future of the Refuge and Wetland Management District has given us an opportunity to look back at those roots, and we are deeply grateful for all of the people who have cared so much about the Refuge, the habitat of the Minnesota River Valley and the wildlife inhabiting the Valley.

Because it will serve as a guide to Refuge and District management for the next 15 years, public input into the comprehensive conservation plan is vital. We would like to thank all of the people who have contributed their time, expertise and ideas to this planning process. All of your ideas are valuable and will contribute to the success of the plan.

We are especially grateful to Scott Sharkey for the use of his superb photographs in this draft comprehensive conservation plan. We thank members of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley for their help and their unflagging dedication to the environment. And, finally, we are grateful to everyone who contributes time and energy as a Refuge volunteer. You are truly the backbone of conservation.

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